Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for force-tightly attaching a tubular piece made of elastomeric material to a connecting part, the method comprising the steps of:

pushing an open end of said tubular piece onto said connecting part so that a pushed on end region of said tubular piece is on said connecting part;

positioning a metal clamping ring around said tubular piece at the pushed on end region thereof;

radially applying a clamping force (K) during a clamping operation to said clamping ring to reduce the diameter of said clamping ring and thereby tightly clamping said tubular piece on said connecting part;

detecting the radial clamping force developed during the clamping operation between said clamping ring and said tubular piece;

observing and measuring a force/displacement curve during said clamping operation; and,

utilizing a characteristic feature of said force/displacement curve as a basis for a criterion for switching off the application of said clamping force.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said tubular piece is a resilient member of an air spring and said connecting part

is a cover or a piston of an air spring.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of ending said clamping operation only when said clamping force begins to drop for the first time after a defined maximum of said curve has been exceeded.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said clamping force is radially applied to said clamping ring with clamping jaws having a diameter (d) therebetween corresponding to said diameter of said clamping ring; said force/displacement curve is a plot of said clamping force (K) as a function of said diameter (d) measured along an abscissa; said force/displacement curve includes a segment during which a plastic deformation of said clamping ring takes place as said diameter (d) is reduced from a diameter (d2) to a diameter (d3) and, after said diameter (d3), said clamping force (K) is increased and causes a deformation also of said connecting part as said diameter (d) is further reduced beyond said diameter (d3) whereupon a maximum value of said clamping force (K) greater than a value K_{min} thereof is reached corresponding to a maximum of said curve; and, the maximum of said curve is only used for evaluation when $K > K_{min}$ and/or $d < d3$ is satisfied as an additional criterion.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said maximum of said curve defines a turning point whereat the shape of said curve changes from positive slope to negative slope; and, said turning point of said force/displacement curve is used as a

switchoff criterion so that said application of said clamping force is switched off after said clamping force falls off from said maximum by a predetermined increment (ΔK).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of, after the clamping operation, making a determination as to whether the obtained parameter (force/displacement) lies within a defined tolerance band.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of using a plastic deformable material for said connecting part having a failure elongation which is not exceeded while performing the steps of the method.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said clamping force is radially applied to said clamping ring with clamping jaws having a diameter (d) therebetween corresponding to said diameter of said clamping ring; and, said force/displacement curve is a plot of said clamping force (K) as a function of said diameter (d) measured along an abscissa.